

IN THE CLAIMS

1-29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:

a piece of baggage having a top and a bottom;

a set of wheels rotationally mounted towards said bottom of said piece of baggage;

a receptacle providing an opening in said top of said piece of baggage;

~~a retractable arm portion, said~~ an arm portion retractably engaged to said piece of baggage and having an adjustable axial length with extending between opposite proximal and distal ends, said proximal end being operatively secured to said piece of baggage and said distal end ~~retracting~~ positionable between an extended position and a retracted position through said receptacle, wherein in said retracted position said distal end is closer to said piece of baggage than in said extended position; and

a towing handle having a hand grip, the towing handle being connected to the distal end of said arm portion in a manner such that said hand grip can pivot relative to said distal end of said arm portion about a pivot axis that intersects the hand grip when said arm portion is in said extended position, and such that said towing handle grip is retracted at least partially into said receptacle when said arm portion is in said retracted position.

31. (currently amended) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

said arm portion ~~has a curvature such that the arm portion curves along said length~~ is arcuate along the axial length.

32. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

said arm portion has a non-circular cross-section.

33. (currently amended) The piece of baggage of claim 32, wherein:

said arm portion ~~has a curvature such that the arm portion curves along said length~~ is arcuate along the axial length.

34. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

said arm portion is a single-pole arm portion.

35. (currently amended) The piece of baggage of claim 34, wherein:

said single-pole arm portion ~~has a curvature such that the arm portion curves~~ is arcuate between the proximal and distal ends along said axial length.

36. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 35, wherein:

said single-pole arm portion has a center-axis that extends along a length of the arm portion from the distal end of the arm portion to the proximal end of the arm portion, the pivot axis being tangent to the center-axis of the arm portion at the distal end of the arm portion.

37. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 34, wherein:

said single-pole arm portion has a center-axis that extends along a length of the arm portion from the distal end of the arm portion to the proximal end of the arm portion, the pivot axis being co-linear to the center-axis.

38. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

the pivot axis bisects the hand grip of the towing handle.

39. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 38 wherein:

said towing handle further comprises at least one stem connected to said handgrip.

40. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 39, wherein:

said at least one stem intersects said handgrip at a generally perpendicular relation.

41. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 39, wherein:

said at least one stem extends from one end of said handgrip and curves to said distal end of said arm portion.

42. (currently amended) The piece of baggage of claim 39, wherein:

~~said at least one stem comprises at least two stems, a first of said at least two stems extending from one end of said handgrip to said distal end of said arm portion and a second of said at least two stems extending from the other end of said handgrip to said distal end of said arm portion~~ a single stem.

43. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30 wherein:

said towing handle further comprises at least one stem connected to said handgrip.

44. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 43, wherein:

said at least one stem intersects said handgrip at a generally perpendicular relation.

45. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 43, wherein:

said at least one stem extends from one end of said handgrip and curves to said distal end of said arm portion.

46. (currently amended) The piece of baggage of claim 43, wherein:

~~said at least one stem comprises at least two stems, a first of said at least two stems extending from one end of said handgrip to said distal end of said arm portion and a second of said at least two stems extending from the other end of said handgrip to said distal end of said arm portion~~ a single stem.

47. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 30, wherein:

in said retracted position, said towing handle lies flush with said piece of baggage.

48. (currently amended) A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:

a piece of baggage;

a set of wheels rotationally mounted on the piece of baggage;

a retractable arm portion, the arm portion comprising a plurality of tubular sections that are telescopically engaged with each other and having a length extending between opposite proximal and distal ends, the proximal end being operatively secured to the piece of baggage and the distal end being selectively movable between a retracted position and an extended position relative to the proximal end via the tubular sections telescoping in a manner such that the distal end is closer to the piece of baggage when in the retracted position than when the distal end is in the extended position, the arm portion further having a non-circular cross section so that the tubular sections cannot slidably twist relative to each other when the distal end of the arm portion is in the extended position; and

a towing handle having a hand grip, the towing handle being connected to the distal end of the arm portion in a manner such that the hand grip can pivot about a pivot axis that intersects the hand grip relative to the distal end of the arm portion when the distal end of the arm portion is in the extended position

wherein the towing handle is generally unobtrusive when in the retracted position.

49. (currently amended) The piece of baggage of claim 48, wherein:

the tubular sections of the arm portion ~~have a curvature such that the arm portion curves along its length~~ are arcuate along their axial lengths.

50. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 48, wherein:

the arm portion is a single-pole arm portion.

51. (previously presented) The piece of baggage of claim 50, wherein:

the single-pole arm portion has a curvature such that the single-pole arm portion curves along its length and said single-pole arm portion has a center-axis that extends along a length of the arm portion from the distal end of the arm portion to the proximal end of the arm portion, the pivot axis being tangent to the center-axis of the arm portion at the distal end of the arm portion.

52. (currently amended) A hand towed piece of baggage comprising:

a wheeled piece of baggage;

telescoping arm means having a length with opposite proximal and distal ends, the proximal end being operatively secured to the piece of baggage and the distal end being selectively telescoping between a retracted position and an extended position such that the distal end is closer to the piece of baggage when in the retracted position than when the distal end is in the extended position;

towing handle means pivotable relative to the distal end of the telescoping arm means about a pivot axis that intersects the towing handle means when said arm portion means is in the extended position, wherein a passage extends between the towing handle and a passageway of the telescoping arm means when the towing handle is connected to the distal end.